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## Give Your Christmas Tree A Chance to Express Itself

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## Give Your Christmas Tree A Chance to Express Itself



**C**HRISTMAS trees bring in the yuletide spirit. But wherever one is placed—on the street, in the store or in the home—the decorating of it should show individuality.

Too many trees when trimmed in a haphazard manner lack design and character. The Christmas tree deserves special attention in preparation for it is to be enjoyed by each passer-by, shopper or member of the family.

A beautiful tree should be chosen, for no matter how lovely decorations are, they will not look good on a poor background. Also, the character which the tree is to portray should be considered. For instance, if it is to be a peaceful and restful tree, all the decorations should carry out this main theme.

Then there are various ways of achieving an attractive and unusual arrangement. Other beautiful color combinations besides green with red could be used. The colors chosen should be used correctly, for the use of too many detracts from the beauty of the tree.

The spirit of the tree is carried out in the lighting, too. Candles are beautiful, but present the danger of fire and have been largely replaced by electric lights. The warm colored lights (red, orange and yellow) should be grouped together, perhaps in the upper part of the tree. The cool colored lights (blue, green and violet) would then be together at the bottom. A combination of colors or a single color can be used.

**I**F THERE are enough lights, a spiral effect is given by placing the lights in the shape of a coil around the tree. The lights should be safe as well as artistic and each set should have a certified approval.

Two or three different kinds of decorations should be chosen. These can be selected from the unlimited number of original ornaments which you can make, or from the large variety at the stores.

Paper and cardboard trimmings are easily made. Two sizes of these would give rhythm to the arrangement. The figures might be of anything pertaining to Christmas and should be faced with a duplicate pattern. These can be tacked to a branch if a cardboard flap is left at the bottom, or they can hang on a pretty cord.

Attractive curls can be made from long, narrow strips of colored cellophane. The curling is done by quickly running the nearly horizontal edge of a knife down the strip. The width of the curls should be about one-fourth of an inch.

By RUTH KUNERTH



If a bazaar effect is desired, a tree can be sprayed white, gold or silver, and decorated with glass balls of a bright hue. This makes a striking polka dot tree.

A striped merry-go-round appearance is given by having glossy, colored paper streamers running from the tip to the bottom at regular intervals around the tree.

Many snow imitations can be bought, but the fluff in milkweed seeds makes an inexpensive substitute. If you use the more traditional cranberry, popcorn or paper chains, arrange them so that there will be balance, either formal or informal, and your tree can be as lovely as any.

If there are children in the home, they will enjoy seeing cookies on the tree. These may be cut in varied shapes of

animals, boats and stars, which will appeal to the small children.

The tree should be the dominant part and the base should be the subordinate part in planning the decorations. Therefore, the stand should be plain. Water soaked sand at the trunk of the tree will delay the falling of needles and will keep the tree fresh looking for a longer time.

For many years it has been customary to make Christmas for the birds by decorating a tree in the back yard. Decorations of wheat, corn, oats, bread, etc., are recommended. The mixture of chopped peanuts with suet is a bird delicacy.

### Fancy "Fixin's"

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each individual guest is particularly nice when the guest list is small. The person who pours can ask each guest whether she cares for much chocolate or only a little—much as she might ask, "One lump or two, please?" if it were tea being served.

Hot grape juice, spiced or with lemon and oranges added (about 1 lemon and 2 oranges to a quart of juice), is another substitute for tea that is welcome when chill breezes blow.

Tea—straight, spiced, mixed with fruit juices or jasmine flavored—remains a good old standby. Of course, there's coffee, but be sure that it's good coffee.

As for the sandwiches, little cakes, cookies, candies and what-not, I'll not suggest a thing. All the new little taster tips seem out-of-place and gaudy when one thinks of all the time-honored Christmas sweets recipes that are handed down in a family from generation to generation. Little Miss New-Rich sweet doesn't stand a chance against such a tradition. I suggest you serve all the special-for-Christmas dainties that your family saves up to make for the holiday season.

Call them appetizers, canapes, hors d'oeuvres or "open sandwiches," it doesn't matter, as long as you start your party with the delicious little bites. Especially appealing for crisp canape bases are the bland but crunchy muffin crisps, new little toasted wafers designed for those who watch their silhouettes by cutting down on starch, but found by clever hostesses to be equally adept at forming the base for capanes. They may be heated in the oven for hot canapes, and are especially good spread with grated cheese and browned in oven.

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